

STRATEGIES FOR 6 TYPES OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

- Communicating- communication between home and school is regular, two-way and meaningful.
- Parenting- Helping families understand the growth and develop of their children
- Learning at Home - Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.
- Volunteering- Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance is sought.
- Decision Making and Advocacy- Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.
- Collaborating with community- community Resources are used to strengthen schools, families, and student learning.

Strategy 1: *Communication between home and school is regular, two-way and meaningful*

Possible Action Steps to use:

1. A variety of communication tools will be used on a regular basis, in order to facilitate two-way interaction through each type of medium used i.e. newsletters, progress reports, e-mail, web news, etc.
2. Opportunities will be established for parents and educators to share partnering information such as students' strengths and learning styles and preferences, through the PTSO organization.
3. Report cards and regular progress reports will be mailed to parents. Support services and follow-up conferences will be scheduled as needed.
4. Information on school reforms, policies, discipline procedures, assessment tolls and school goals will be disseminated.
5. Conferences with parents will be scheduled at least twice a year, with follow-up as needed. These will be scheduled to accommodate the varied schedules of parents, language barriers, and the need for child care.
6. Immediate contact between parents and teachers will be encouraged when concerns arise.
7. Verbal or written translations will be conducted to the fullest extent possible for non-English speaking parents.
8. Communication with parents will be done regarding positive student behavior and achievement, not just regarding misbehavior or failure.
9. Opportunities will be provided for parents to communicate with the principal and other administrators.
10. Informal activities will be created at which parents, staff and community members can interact.
11. Staff development will be conducted regarding effective communication techniques and the importance of regular two-way communication

Strategy 2: *Parenting: Helping families understand the growth and develop of their children*

Possible Action Steps to use:

1. Communicate the importance of positive relationships between parents and their children.
2. Link parents to programs and resources within the community that provide support services to families.
3. Create ideas to reach out to all families, not just to those that attend parent supported functions.
4. Establish policies that support and respect family responsibilities, recognizing the variety of parenting traditions and practices within the community's cultural and religious diversity.
5. Have accessible parent/family information and resource materials available to support parents and families with training, resources, and other services.
6. Encourage staff members to demonstrate respect for families and the family's primary role in rearing of children to become responsible adults.

Strategy 3: *Learning At Home: Involve families with learning activities at home*

Possible Action Steps to use:

1. Seek and encourage parental participation in decision-making that affects students.
2. Inform parents of the expectations for students in each subject and grade level.
3. Share information with parents to help them foster learning at home, give appropriate assistance, monitor homework, and give feedback to the teachers.
4. Provide information to parents to assist in understanding how students can improve skills, get help when needed, meet class expectations, and perform well on assessments.
5. Involved parents in setting student goals and in planning post secondary education and careers.
6. Provide staff with opportunities to learn and share successful approaches in engaging parents in their child's education.

Strategy 4: *Volunteering: Parents are welcome in the school, involved as volunteers to support students and school programs.*

Possible Action Steps to use:

1. Ensure that office staff greetings, signage near the entrances, and any other interaction with parents create a climate in which parents feel valued and welcome.
2. Develop and give a survey to parents regarding their interests, talents, and availability, then coordinate the parent resources with those that exist within the school and among the staff.
3. Provide opportunities for parents who are unable to volunteer in the school building the options for helping in other ways, at home or place of employment.
4. The program for utilizing parent volunteers will be organized in an easy, accessible way and ample training will be provided on volunteer procedures and school protocol.
5. Develop a system for contacting all parents to assist as the year progresses.
6. Design a system for opportunities for those with limited time and resources to participate by addressing child care, transportation, work schedule needs, and so forth.
7. Create a method to show appreciation for parental participation, and value their diverse contributions.

8. Ensure that volunteer activities are meaningful and built on volunteer interests and abilities.

Strategy 5: *Decision-Making: Include parents as participants in school decisions, governance, and advocacy*

Possible Action Steps to use:

1. Provide understandable, accessible, and a well-publicized process for influencing decisions, raising issues or concerns, appealing decisions, and resolving problems.
2. Encourage the formation of parent groups to identify and respond to issues of interest to parents.
3. Include parents to the fullest extent possible on all decision-making and advisory committees, and ensure adequate training for such areas as policy, curriculum, budget, school reform initiatives, safety, and personnel.
4. Develop a system to provide parents with current information regarding school policies, practices, and both student and school performance data.
5. Give parents the opportunity to participate as partners when setting school goals, developing or evaluating programs and policies, or responding to performance data.
6. Encourage and facilitate active parent participation in the decisions that affect students, such as student placement, course selection, and individual personalized education plans.
7. Treat parental concerns with respect and demonstrate genuine interest in developing solutions.
8. Promote parent participation on the school level, state, and county committees and issues.
9. Provide training for staff and parents on collaborative partnering and shared decision making.

Strategy 6: *Collaborating with Community: Community resources are used to strengthen schools, families, and student learning.*

Possible Action Steps to use:

1. Distribute information regarding cultural, recreational, academic, health, social, and other resources that serve families within the community.
2. Develop partnerships with local business and service groups to advance student learning and assist the school and families.
3. Encourage employers to the fullest extent possible to adopt policies and practices that promote and support adult participation in children's education.
4. Create a program to foster student participation in community service.
5. Encourage Community members to take part in school volunteer programs.
6. Disseminate information from the school to the community, including those without school-age children, regarding school programs and performance.
7. Collaborate with community agencies to provide family support services and adult learning opportunities, enabling parents to more fully participate in activities that support education.
8. Inform staff members of the resources available in the community and strategies for utilizing those resources.